

Testimony of

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Before the

Education Committee

March 15, 2023

Good afternoon, Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of House Bill 6884. This bill takes important steps toward addressing the educator shortage in Connecticut, showing educators that theirs is a respected profession, and ensuring that our classrooms and schools can provide the best possible education for our students.

I support this bill for numerous reasons. The primary reason I support this bill is because it demonstrates that teachers are professionals with value. We work hard, and our days are filled with an enormous amount of responsibilities. I try to create relationships with my students and their families. This means phone calls and regular check ins aside from my regular duties. Additionally, it takes up time that I do not have. I often spend my lunches and prep periods tackling these tasks. As is, I often don't have time for my "break". All corporate jobs respect their employees and provide them with these breaks. Teachers deserve the same respect. Additionally, the kindergarten start age would allow children to mature more before beginning school. Developmentally, they will be more prepared to access the information we give them. Many are still babies, only 4! Play based learning in the kindergarten classes is essential and appropriate! By the time they reach the older grades, they need these social-emotional skills to be successful. What we ask of these children in our current learning environments who are not emotionally mature enough to sit and learn in a classroom is unfair. Please vote this bill through and make teachers and children feel respected and valued. It will make the difference in all our futures.

Thank you.

